

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Davis Proclaims April as State Parks Month
Thousands of Volunteers Expected for Earth Day 2003 Events
Beginning on Saturday, April 12 in State Parks
Throughout California

SACRAMENTO - Governor **Gray Davis** has proclaimed April as State Parks Month. Since 1995 there has been a State Parks Month celebrated in California - and this year's celebration coincides with Earth Day events.

In his proclamation, the Governor states, "Whereas, the California State Parks System is recognized as one of endless and magnificent diversity and beauty, ranging from the fog shrouded redwood forests to the sun baked vistas of desert landscapes, and from the pounding surf of the Pacific shoreline, to the majestic peaks of the Sierra, and whereas, California's park system includes cultural and historical sites of national importance, wildlife habitats and natural preserves critical to the ecological health of thousands of plants, animals and birds...I proclaim April 2003 as State Parks Month in California."

During State Parks Month, thousands of volunteers are expected to help clean parks, repair and build trails and work on Earth Day projects throughout California beginning on Saturday, April 12.

California State Parks is again joining the California State Parks Foundation to participate in Earth Day events and projects throughout the state. The Foundation developed its annual Earth Day restoration and cleanup program in 1998 to facilitate completion of much-needed repair and maintenance projects at State and community parks with the help of program sponsors and volunteers.

This major cleanup effort takes place during State Parks Month, April 2003, proclaimed by California Governor Gray Davis.

The Earth Day mission is to initiate cleanup and restoration projects in State Parks and community parks.

Susan Smartt, President of the California State Parks Foundation, said, "Projects are designed to restore and rehabilitate our treasured parks, everything from stream and hillside restoration to tree planting. People all across California have a strong attachment to their environment and on this day they turn out to prove it."

California State Parks Acting Director **Ruth Coleman** said, "We invite everyone to join us in cleanup events throughout the state. There are all kinds of projects, including some in which families can participate together. Earth Day is the perfect time to remember what makes California great - and what better place to do this than in state parks during California State Parks Month?"

Thousands of volunteers will participate in special events and cleanup projects. The California State Parks Foundation, a non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing California's State Park System, has granted over \$60,000 this year to fund Earth Day projects throughout California.

Earth Day program grants are made possible through generous contributions from dozens of sponsors, including the California Department of Conservation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Oracle, Levi Strauss, Chevron Texaco, Bank of America, AAA, Starbucks Coffee, Odwalla, and the Automobile Club of America.

For general information, volunteers can call 1-888-98 PARKS or long on to www.calparks.org.

State Park projects include:

(Unless otherwise indicated, events take place on **Saturday, April 12.**)

ALAMEDA/SAN FRANCISCO COUNTIES

Volunteers will work on a beach cleanup at **East Shore State Park** from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Participants will meet behind the Sea Breeze Deli and are advised to bring gloves, water, sturdy shoes and sun block. For more information, contact Kathleen Fusek at (510) 544-2515.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

A number of projects will take place at **Mount Diablo State Park**. Volunteers will help remove non-native plants at Mitchell Creek, restore the Turtle Rock resource, remove non-native Scotch Broom from the park, restore the Mitchell Canyon Trail, assemble recycling bins, and litter pickup in the campgrounds and high visitors day use areas. Work will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Participants are advised to bring gloves, hats, sunscreen, sturdy shoes and warm clothes. For more information, contact Mary Pass at (925) 837-5245.

EL DORADO, PLACER COUNTIES

Auburn State Recreation Area will have a cleanup project beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m. Volunteers will meet at "The Confluence" of the North and Middle Forks of the American River, three miles out of Auburn on Highway 49 towards Coloma. Participants are asked to bring gloves, water, sturdy shoes and something to eat. For more information, please check the PARC website at www.parc-auburn.org or call the park office at (530) 885-4527.

FRESNO, MADERA COUNTIES

Millerton Lake State Recreation Area volunteers and staff will be planting trees and shrubs native to the area. The work location is near the South Shore entrance station. Sign up will begin at 8:30 a.m. and work will begin at 9 a.m. Participants are advised to bring gloves, sunscreen, and drinking water. For more information, contact Ranger Jeff Davis at (559) 822-2283 or E-mail: jedavis@parks.ca.gov

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The 9th annual joint Redwood National and State Park/Smith River National Recreation Area cleanup project for the Smith River will take place on April 12. Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. at the Hiouchi Visitor Center. For more information, contact Carol McCall at (707) 464-6101, extension 5002.

Humboldt Redwoods State Park has two events planned April 12th. Volunteers will meet at the park's Visitor Center to help work on the native plant garden. Work will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participants are advised to bring work gloves. There will also be a field trip to the park's Holmgren property in the early afternoon hours for brush clearing around the

historic homestead. Volunteers are advised to meet at the Visitor Center or stop by the Salmon Creek exit of the 101 Freeway from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m. Participants are advised to bring water, work shoes, and gloves.

Ranger Emily Peterson will lead an Equestrian Trail Restoration expedition for Earth Day based out of the Cuneo Horse Camp in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Camping is available and other equestrian events may be planned. For more information, contact Ranger Peterson (707) 946-18105.

LAKE COUNTY

Clear Lake State Park will be celebrating Earth Day in conjunction with the annual Wild Flower Breakfast on **April 26**. A build-your-own omelet breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. The Kelseyville High School Jazz Band will play at 10:00 a.m. A wildflower nature hike will begin at 10:30 a.m. There will be two slide presentations of a hike on the Indian Nature Trail for those who can't make the hike. Those will be at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Junior Ranger programs will start at 10:30 a.m. and continue on through out the day. This event is sponsored by the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association and admission into the park and event is free with the exception of the breakfast, which is \$10per person. For more information, contact Val Nixon at (707) 279-2267 or Madelene Lyon at (707) 279-4395.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

California State Parks' Angeles District will be conducting a program at the **Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook** in Culver City from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. The program will include planting native plants along the trail coordinator at the Scenic Overlook. At the end of the day a presentation about native wildlife will be made by the Nature of Wildworks, a rehabilitation and educational organization. For more information, contact Ranger Dan Raducanu at (310) 558-4566.

Malibu Creek State Park will host volunteers who will collect trash and debris from the Malibu Creek watershed (Las Virgenes Creek). There will be graffiti-removal projects as well. Volunteers will include local school students, Surfrider Foundation and Heal the Bay members, and local residents. For more information, contact Ranger Darrell Readyhoff at (818) 880-0367.

MARIN COUNTY

At **China Camp State Park** volunteers and staff will be planting grasses and installing benches in an area of the park where non-native eucalyptus trees were removed. This new area will offer visitors new vistas of the park. For more information, contact Samantha Toffoli at (415) 893-1589, extension 22.

Samuel P. Taylor State Park will be the site of restoration work along Lagunitas Creek, including the removal of an infestation of non-native periwinkle and the replanting of native plants. Also, approximately 40 feet of split rail fence will be built to protect the park's fragile stream bank. For more information, contact Samantha Toffoli at (415) 893-1589, extension 22.

MONTEREY COUNTY

At **Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds** Delaware North Park Services (DNPS) has arranged for a group of 4th and 5th graders from nearby Forest Grove Elementary School to come to the park for an all-day series of planned activities. The approximately one hundred students will participate in presentations by DNPS and state park staff about the Monterey pine forest and pine pitch canker; sow plant seeds into containers made of recycled paper; restore a dune by planting native plants; take a ranger-led tour of the dunes; take a ride in an electric cart; meet "Recyclo the Robot"; participate in an art project using recycled materials; learn about the GreenPath project from a representative of the Monterey Peninsula Waste Management District; and be treated to an Asilomar outdoor barbecue. For more information contact Ranger Roxann Jacobus at (831) 372-4076.

ORANGE COUNTY

Bolsa Chica State Beach will have a beach cleanup. Volunteers will join park staff for the event that will go from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants are asked to bring work gloves, drinking water, and, if possible, rakes. For more information, contact Skyler Kirby at (714) 536-1454.

Crystal Cove State Park will host a "Wildflowers and Rainbows" project to plant flowers representing all colors of the rainbow in the park's group camp area and amphitheater. Volunteers will meet at Pelican Point parking lot #4 and work will go from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Participants are advised to bring work gloves, sunscreen, water, and, if possible, a hand trowel. For more information, contact Winter Bonin at (949) 497-7647 or crystalcv@fea.net.

Doheny State Beach will have a North Creek native planting project, including restoration of the park's watershed and beach cleanup. The work will go from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves. For more information, contact Vicki Wiker at (494) 296-2704. On **April 19th**, there will be an Earth Day cleanup at Doheny State Beach. Volunteers will meet at the mouth of the San Juan Creek River (lifeguard headquarters) and work from 9 a.m. to Noon. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves. For more information, contact Vicki Wiker at (494) 296-2704.

San Clemente State Beach will be the site of the Butterfly Trail restoration project. Volunteers and state park staff will also work on a replanting project for Native American Island. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers should meet at the campfire center and bring work gloves, comfortable shoes, and drinking water. For more information, contact Jeff Hostert at (949) 366-8594.

PLACER, EL DORADO, SACRAMENTO COUNTIES

Lake Natoma will be the site of a litter cleanup from 8 a.m. until Noon. Volunteers are asked to wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, sturdy shoes and sunscreen. Volunteers are also encouraged to bring tennis shoes for water litter pickup projects. Families are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Shana Avalos at (916) 988-0205.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area will be the site of cleanup and trail restoration projects. Volunteers will be transported via boat in areas to clean and restore hard-to-access areas, while other volunteers will travel to Miller Canyon to help restore the overgrown and eroded train system currently in place. Volunteers are asked to meet at the park's visitor center at 9 a.m. for orientation. Participants are advised to be prepared for warm or cool weather - and bring water. For more information, contact Ranger K. Conde at (760) 389-2303.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

California State Parks' San Diego Coast District in cooperation with the State Parks Foundation is holding an event on April 12th in **Carlsbad**, off Manzano Road. Volunteers will begin work at 8:30 a.m. Working with the California Conservation Corps, volunteers will repair trails, remove exotic plants, and perform general cleanup work on one of the few remaining open areas in Carlsbad. The 23-acre site features an excellent ocean view and, after the replanting of native plants, will offer a rare opportunity for visitors to experience a natural setting in one of California's largest urban areas. For more information, contact Bill Mennell at (858) 642-4200.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Caswell Memorial State Park will be the site of an Earth Day Riverlands Clean-up on Saturday, April 12, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Volunteers are invited to participate in a river shore clean-up day and help to install new recycling containers in the campground and picnic area on the Stanislaus River near Ripon. Participants will be treated to a hot dog and burger barbecue. Partners in supporting the event are Starbucks Modesto and the San Joaquin County Public Works - Solid Waste Division. Free admission for volunteers. Volunteers are advised to wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves and bug repellent. For more information, contact Ranger Terri Jensen, tjens@parks.ca.gov, (209) 599-3810

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach in San Simeon will be the site of a number of Earth Day events on **Saturday, April 19**. Activities are for people of all ages and include a beach cleanup as well as wildlife viewing and identification. For more information, contact Cecilia Boudreau or Gail Berry at (805) 927-2010.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

For the fifth year, **Refugio State Beach** will host volunteer divers who, along with State Parks dive team personnel, will work on underwater cleanup projects. Work will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Divers should bring their certification card and SCUBA gear, including goodie bags. Check-in time is between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. on the west (up-coast) side of the park's

day-use area. Non-divers will participate in the beach cleanup portion of the event. Local businesses and dive clubs will provide refreshment for the participants. Volunteers from the University of California at Santa Barbara will conduct a fish count, which helps establish baseline data for the underwater park. A free barbecue for participants will conclude the event, and everyone is encouraged to bring a potluck item to share. For more information, contact Danita Rodriguez at (805) 968-7192.

SONOMA COUNTY

Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve will host a creek-monitoring project and trail restoration in the park's redwood grove. Volunteers should check in at the Armstrong Redwoods front parking lot near the visitor center. Work will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants are advised to bring sturdy shoes and lunch. For more information, contact Michele Luna with the Stewards of Slavianka at (707) 865-9177.

Sonoma Coast State Beach will have a project at the park's Willow Creek Watershed. Volunteers will work to restore the land to its natural beauty as well as clean debris. Participants should meet at the entrance to the Pomo Campground on Willow Creek Road and bring sturdy shoes, lunch, water and gloves. Work will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Michele Luna with the Stewards of Slavianka at (707) 865-9177.

There will also be a cleanup project at North Jenner Beach in Sonoma Coast State Beach from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers should meet at the Sonoma Coast Visitor Center across from the gas station in Jenner. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves and lunch. For more information, contact Michele Luna with the Stewards of Slavianka at (707) 865-9177.

VENTURA COUNTY

On **April 25, 26 & 27** **Point Mugu State Park** will be the site for the 22nd Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days Event. For more information, visit the website at www.smmtc.org. Or call the Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council at (818) 222-4531.

STATEWIDE

California Trail Days - April 12 & 13. Each year, volunteers spend tens of thousands of hours constructing, repairing, cleaning up, and enjoying trails at Trail Days celebrations statewide. For general information and volunteer opportunities, please contact the California Trails Foundation at (530) 747-6037 or (530) 383-1250.

For complete information about all volunteer locations, visit:

<http://www.calparks.org/index.htm>.

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